

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 12, 19, 22-29, 35-37, 41, 42, 44, 49, 55, 57 -67 are pending. Claims 22-24, 35-37, 41, 42, 44, 49, 55 and 63-67 remain withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention/species. Applicants hereby reserve the right to pursue the nonelected subject matter in one or more divisional applications.

Claims 1, 12 and 55 were amended. New claims 68 to 83 have been added. Support for these claims is found throughout the specification. For example, page 1, paragraphs [0011]-[0012]; page 2, paragraphs [0024]- [0029]; page 5, paragraphs [0067]-[0077]; page 6, paragraphs [0084]-[0093]; page 8, paragraphs [0108]-[0120]; page 11, paragraphs [0150]-[0161]; page 17, paragraph [0234]. No new matter has been added by virtue of these amendments and entry is respectfully requested.

New independent claims 68, 82 and 83 derive from previous claims 1, 12 and 55, respectively. The catalysts of these claims are limited to organic acids and acid catalysts, and the organic solvent solution of these claims is limited to a hydrocarbon-based solvent solution or a fluorinated hydrocarbon-based solvent solution. These claims are novel over any of the cited references. For example, the Examiner alleges that US 2001/0019773 A1 teaches hydrocarbon-based solvents [0027]. US 2001/0019773 A1 discusses lower alcohol solvents, ethers and ketones in [0027]. In contrast to the instant invention, US 2001/0019773 does not teach or suggest a hydrocarbon-based solvent solution or a fluorinated hydrocarbon-based solvent solution.

In addition, claims 68 to 83 of the present invention, provide a method for producing an organic thin film which enables rapid film formation, and enables a dense organic thin film with minimal impurities to be formed stably, and in a plurality of consecutive repetitions. US 2001/0019773 A1 does not teach or suggest such excellent effects of the present invention. Therefore, claims 68 to 83 are not only novel, but also unobvious over US 2001/0019773 A1.

In view thereof, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the instant rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)/103(a) (Claims 1, 2, 12, 19 and 25-29)

Claims 1, 2, 12, 19, 25-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over US 2001/0019773 A1.

Applicants respectfully traverse. However, in order to compact and expedite prosecution, in response to the rejection, Applicants have amended the claims without conceding to the Examiner's rejection. The claim amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants hereby reserve the right to pursue any canceled or amended subject matter in one or more divisional or continuation applications. As amended, claims 1 and 12 exclude organic acids and acid catalysts from the catalysts. US 2001/0019773 A1 does not teach or suggest a method for producing an organic thin film using metal oxides; metal hydroxides; metal alkoxides; chelated metal compounds; coordinated metal compounds; partial hydrolysis products of metal alkoxides; hydrolysis products obtained by treating a metal alkoxide with no less than a two-fold equivalence of water; and silanol condensation catalysts; as catalysts.

In addition, these compositions are provided in a method for producing an organic thin film which enables rapid film formation, and enables a dense organic thin film with minimal impurities to be formed stably, and in a plurality of consecutive repetitions. US 2001/0019773 A1 does not teach or suggest such an excellent effect of the present invention. Therefore, claims 1 and 12 are not only novel, but also unobvious over US 2001/0019773 A1 as this reference, does not provide such teachings, suggestions or motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, because claims 2, 19 and 25-29 are dependent on claim 1, rejections to these claims should be withdrawn.

In view thereof, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the instant rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)/103(a) (Claims 3, 4, 55 and 57-62)

Claims 3, 4, 55 and 57-62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over US 2001/0019773 A1.

Applicants respectfully traverse. However, in order to compact and expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims. Amendment of the claims is not to be construed as acquiescing to the Examiner's position. The amendments are made solely for responding to this Office Action. Applicants hereby reserve the right to pursue the amended or canceled subject matter in one or more continuation or divisional applications. Claims 1 and 55 have been amended to exclude organic acids and acid catalysts from the catalysts. US 2001/0019773 A1 does not teach or suggest a method for producing an organic thin film using metal oxides; metal hydroxides; metal alkoxides; chelated metal compounds; coordinated metal compounds; partial hydrolysis products of metal alkoxides; hydrolysis products obtained by treating a metal alkoxide with no less than a two-fold equivalence of water; and silanol condensation catalysts; as catalysts.

In addition, by selecting such compositions of the present invention, the invention provides, *inter alia*, a method for producing an organic thin film which enables rapid film formation, and enables a dense organic thin film with minimal impurities to be formed stably, and in a plurality of consecutive repetitions. Applicants submit, that US 2001/0019773 A1 does not teach or suggest such excellent results as taught by the present invention.

Therefore, claims 1 and 55 are both novel and unobvious over US 2001/0019773 A1. Furthermore, since claims 3, 4 and 57-62 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1, rejections to these claims should be withdrawn.

In view thereof, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the instant rejections.

Application No. 10/553,109
Amendment dated December 30, 2009
Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2009

Docket No.: 20241/0203479-US0

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the application is respectfully solicited.

If there are any remaining issues or the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with the undersigned would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at telephone number shown below.

The Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in any fees paid on the filing, or during prosecution of this application to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Dated: December 30, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By /Nicholas A. Zachariades/

Nicholas A. Zachariades

Registration No.: 56,712

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 770

Church Street Station

New York, New York 10008-0770

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant